

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 02795 191514Z

50

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 USIA-06 FBIE-00 JUSE-00 /043 W

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R 191430Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2170

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 2795

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPRO SL

SUBJ: STARCROSSED MOONSEED

REF: LONDON 17723

1. FYI. EMBASSY'S INFORMATION ON AND EXPERIENCE WITH ACOSTA IS THAT HE IS ACCOMPLISHED CON ARTIST. ON PREVIOUS TRIP TO FREETOWN, WHICH WE WELL REMEMBER, HE GAVE VERY SMOOTH LINE OF PATTERN TO BOTH EMBASSY AND VARIOUS GOSL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING ASSERTIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL BACKING FROM PRIVATE US SOURCES. DISCREET CHECKING, HOWEVER, INDICATED HE OFTEN MISREPRESENTED TO EACH CONTACT DEGREE OF SUPPORT ALLEGEDLY OFFERED BY OTHERS. IN LIGHT OF OUR SUSPICIONS ALL NOT ON UP-AND-UP, EMBASSY LIMITED ITS ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDING NAMES OF APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS BUT REFUSED ENDORSE PROPOSAL OR MAKE CONTACTS FOR HIM. HIS PROPOSAL AT THAT TIME, DESPITE ALLEGATIONS OF FINANCIAL BACKING, CALLED FOR SUBSTANTIAL GOSL UNDERWRITING OF FILM PROJECT, INCLUDING SEVERAL MONTHS HOTEL EXPENSES FOR ENTIRE CAST AND PRODUCTION TEAM. MOREOVER, CLAIMING "UNEXPLAINABLE BANK FOULUPS" HE AND SPANISH SIDEKICK ARRIVED CLAIMING HAVE NO FUNDS AND SEEKING PERSONAL OR OFFICIAL LOANS, EVENTUALLY SUCCEEDING IN BORROWING MONEY FOR HOTEL AND PLANE TICKETS TO EUROPE FROM HONORARY SPANISH CONSUL.

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EMBASSY BACKGROUND CHECK WITH DEPT PRODUCED INFORMATION

(STATE 159842 NOTAL) THAT PREVIOUS EMPLOYERS, AVCO
EMBASSY PICTURE CORP., LOS ANGELES, CONSIDERS HIM
"CROOK" AND WOULD ENDEAVOR PROSECUTE ACOSTA IF HE COULD
BE BROUGHT WITHIN U.S. FELONY JURISDICTION. END FYI.

2. IN LIGHT ABOVE, SUGGEST EMBASSY LONDON ADVISE
ACOSTA THAT IT OUR READING THAT GOSL NOT INTERESTED IN
ANY PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE IT EXPEND ANY FUNDS
OR UNDERWRITE ANY EXPENSES. IF ACOSTA WISHES PURSUE
PROJECT, ONLY SUGGESTIONS EMBASSY FREETOWN CAN MAKE IS
THAT HE CONTINUE DIRECT APPROACHES TO GOSL, SUPPORTING
THEM WITH FIRM EVIDENCE THAT FINANCING TO COVER ALL
EXPENSES IS ALREADY IN HAND THROUGH HIS OWN EFFORTS.
SAMUELS

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